



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Redesign Working Group

Summary of Meeting

October 6, 2017
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Important Note: The next RWG meeting has been rescheduled from October 27th to November 17th. There will be a 2-day meeting on December 7th and 8th.

Participants: Amy Bergstrand, Rob Choate, Esperanza Colio, Terry Cox, C.J. Freeland, Delo Frietas (phone, for Rob Holmlund), Patrick Jordan (phone), Rachelle Kellogg, Thomas Last, Susan Long, Heather MacDonald, Robert Mansfield, Jennifer Owen, Paul Ramey, Nick Romo, Gurbax Sahota, Megan Tokunaga (phone), Chris Westlake, Sherry McBride (phone, for Rob Holmlund), Erin Riches (phone, for James Hacker), Kathleen Weissenberger

HCD – Jeri Amendola, Harrison Anixter, Niki Dhillon, Charles Gray, Jim Miwa, Diane Moroni, Karen Patterson, Ginny Puddefoot, Leticia Ramos, Chris Webb-Curtis

Agenda Items

Welcome and Introductions

RWG Charter and Summary of Prior Meeting

The group agreed to the RWG charter and the summary of the 8/28 meeting with no additional edits.

Listening Sessions

HCD staff provided a summary of listening sessions. Those who had participated felt the listening sessions were useful. There was concern expressed regarding how the feedback would be used, i.e. comments should not be weighted since there is no way to determine how representative they are. HCD staff assured the RWG that the purpose of the listening sessions was to ensure HCD had reached out to stakeholders and had a complete list of issues, not to determine which of them were priorities. HCD agreed to send out all individual listening sessions, keep the summary and compilation together to avoid skewing the information in the summary, and in the future when charting, not to ID specific jurisdictions/commenters

HUD TA

The HUD TA providers (Kathleen Weissenberger in person and Patrick Jordan by phone) summarized the scope and timeline of their work and responded to questions and comments

from the group. The TA provider acknowledged that the high line of credit balance is the main focus of the TA and will be assessed using historical IDIS data on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis. TA recommendations will not be systemic if systemic problems are not identified. Please see Kathleen's PowerPoint slides, distributed to the RWG as a separate attachment.

The draft side-by-side comparison of state versus federal CDBG program requirements will be completed by the end of November, so the RWG will have a chance to review it in December before it is finalized. The TA Provider clarified that the comparison will look at the breadth of requirements including management memos, policies, law, etc. and acknowledged that the comparison may identify not only areas where state requirements exceed federal but also where federal requirements are not being met.

Members shared many of their concerns and suggestions as to CDBG redesign.

Data Needs

HCD flagged that this topic is one needing to be addressed so that the redesign discussions can be data-driven. The group suggested as a starting point the data summaries distributed by HCD to the Advisory Committee several months ago, and pointed out that often the project data is inaccurate but there is no process for review and revision. HCD staff were asked to present a comprehensive summary of data available from CAPES and elsewhere in HCD for the group to review at the next meeting. Then missing data that is important for redesign purposes can be identified and strategies for how to obtain it can be discussed.

Status Updates

HCD staff provided a status update on the analysis of CDBG workload and progress toward completing time-sensitive tasks required by SB 106. RWG members raised a number of issues regarding the need for better communication both internally and externally, as well as questioning whether HCD is evaluating the pros and cons of functional alignment for effective program development and implementation. HCD staff provided an update on the 2017 NOFA. RWG members flagged several issues that need resolution ASAP and also asked when the FAQs would be posted so that HCD decisions are documented and made public.

Next Steps

The group agreed to cancel the October 27th meeting and meet for the next time on November 17th. The focus of this meeting will be other states' experiences with CDBG redesign and the data available for analysis. There will also be a two-day meeting on December 7th and 8th, which will focus on reviewing the side-by-side comparison of federal and state program requirements. HCD will send out a proposed schedule of meetings for January-June 2018. In the meantime, subgroups will convene on the following topics, once HCD clarifies the goals and proposed products for each subgroup for the December meeting:

- 1) Program Income
- 2) Economic Development
- 3) Successful Strategies for Expenditure